

JULY 30, 1976

THE U.S. AND ARMS CONTROL

ANNCR: PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL ARMS CONTROL MADE NEWS HEADLINES HERE FRIDAY MORNING. VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES THE STORIES:

VOICE: ON THURSDAY PRESIDENT FORD SUBMITTED TWO DOCUMENTS TO CONGRESS. ONE WAS THE TEXT OF TWO SOVIET-AMERICAN TREATIES GOVERNING UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTING. THE OTHER WAS THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY.

THE TWO TREATIES WERE SENT ONLY TO THE SENATE, WHOSE ADVICE AND CONSENT ARE NECESSARY FOR THEIR RATIFICATION. ONE WAS THE THRESHOLD TEST BAN TREATY, ON UNDERGROUND TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND THE OTHER WAS AN AGREEMENT ON UNDERGROUND TESTING FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. THESE, YOU MAY REMEMBER, ARE THE TWO SOVIET-AMERICAN TREATIES WHICH-- AS MR. FORD PUT IT IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE SENATE URGING RATIFICATION---"ARE THE FIRST AGREEMENTS SINCE THE LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY (OF 1963) TO IMPOSE DIRECT RESTRAINTS ON NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS BY THE TWO PARTIES AND, AS SUCH, CONTRIBUTE TO LIMITING NUCLEAR ARMS COMPETITION."

(OPT.) THE MAIN SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE TREATIES IS CONSIDERED TO BE THEIR PROVISIONS TO INSURE ADEQUATE VERIFICATION--" MORE FAR- REACHING," AS MR. FORD REMARKED, " THAN THOSE FOUND IN PREVIOUS ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS." (END OPT.)

THE OTHER DOCUMENT WHICH PRESIDENT FORD SENT TO CONGRESS WAS THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY. IT IS A ROUTINE REPORT, SURVEYING THE CURRENT STATUS OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT, BUT THIS YEAR IT INCLUDED A DISTURBING REFERENCE TO SOVIET DEPLOYMENT OF MISSILES IN EUROPE. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE SOVIET

UNION HAS BEGUN TO INSTALL NEW MISSILES WITH MULTIPLE WARHEADS, REPLACING THE INTERMEDIATE-RANGE MISSILES ALONG ITS WESTERN BORDERS. IT IS WELL-KNOWN THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN PLACING SUCH WARHEADS ON THEIR LONG-RANGE MISSILES; IT HAS, IN FACT, BEEN A SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATION AT THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS. BUT THIS IS THE FIRST INDICATION THAT THEY ARE BEING PLACED ON MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES TARGETED AGAINST THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THEIR USE POSES OBVIOUS PROBLEMS IN THE MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION AND THE WARSAW PACT. (OPT.) THE MISSILES IN QUESTION -- WHICH ARE EXEMPT FROM THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT-- ARE HIGHLY MOBILE AND THE MULTIPLE NUCLEAR WARHEADS OBVIOUSLY GREATLY INCREASE THEIR STRIKING POWER AND COMPLICATE NATO'S DEFENSE PROBLEMS. AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE BEING QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING THAT THE SOVIET MOVE CONTRADICTS THE SPIRIT OF LAST YEAR'S HELSINKI AGREEMENT ON EUROPEAN SECURITY. (END OPT.)

THUS, IN ONE DAY, THE ARMS CONTROL MOVEMENT RECEIVES BOTH A PLUS AND A MINUS. THE TREATIES ON UNDERGROUND TESTING-- WITH THEIR VERIFICATION PROCEDURES-- ARE SEEN AS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN OF SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN LIMITING NUCLEAR ARMS COMPETITION. BUT THE REPORT ON SOVIET MOVES TO ALTER THE EAST-WEST NUCLEAR BALANCE IS BOUND TO RAISE DISTURBING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONSISTENCY AND SERIOUSNESS OF SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS CONTROL EFFORT-- AS WELL AS IN THE REDUCTION OF EAST-WEST TENSIONS WHICH IS THE CHIEF AIM OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT.